

**U.S. – JAPAN 20th PHYTOSANITARY BILATERAL
TOKYO, JAPAN, NOVEMBER 1-2, 2004
SUMMARY OF ISSUES**

U.S. Issues –

Cherries: USDA/APHIS (USDA) submitted systems approach proposals to MAFF/PPD (MAFF) for the Pacific Northwest and California. USDA proposed a technical meeting for late January to discuss the systems approach. A meeting to develop a systems approach for cherries is now scheduled for the week of January 24, 2005.

Chipping Potatoes: MAFF indicated it will require additional technical information on potato wart and Golden nematode, related to the proposed safeguarding protocol for US chipping potatoes. MAFF said that it will use this information to begin consultation with its stakeholders regarding this market access request.

Official control: MAFF stated that they are working towards submitting a notification to the WTO in December 2004 with pests that would be eliminated from its quarantine list for possible implementation in March. This list would include Florida red scale, CA red scale, and Fuller rose beetle. These pests were added to Japan's list of non-quarantine pests in December 2004.

Tobacco Blue Mold: Eggplant and Peppers: MAFF indicated it would like to test additional pepper varieties from California susceptible to TBM (e.g., yellow bell peppers) and as many strains as possible, using isolates from different parts of the U.S. USDA proposed an experts meeting may still be necessary and tentatively identified summer 2005.

Prune plums: MAFF committed to do its best for 2005 season to schedule a public hearing for the two new varieties, Moyer and Tulare Giant.

Potted Anthuriums from Hawaii: MAFF said it will review the proposal and respond, if appropriate, with additional questions, e.g., shipping time. MAFF does not expect any delays but it does anticipate a public hearing.

Papayas from Hawaii: MAFF said that there will be some difficulty in reducing the inspectors immediately. MAFF will review and respond in writing. MAFF is consulting with its legal staff on whether it will require a public hearing to reduce inspector number.

Big Bale Hay: MAFF stated that a public hearing is not required to allow entry of bale hay but a certain period of time for public comment will be necessary. MAFF has to schedule the public comment period.

CA Apples: MAFF indicated that a public hearing will not be needed but other procedures make this issue difficult to move forward.

Cherry Varieties (Early Garnett and Royal Rainier): USDA explained that the marketing trademark is 'Early Garnett' and the industry expects the cherries to be sold and marketed under that name. USDA will respond to MAFF with requested varietal and production data. MAFF indicated that a public hearing will not be needed but there might be a need for public comment.

Rice straw: MAFF needs to respond to USDA's request for clarification on a number of issues, including use of the vapor hydrogen peroxide treatment. USDA committed to send MAFF a letter with the list of fungi the industry plans to use in the rice straw test along with detailed description of the hydrogen peroxide treatment.

Japan Issues --

Unshu oranges: USDA invited MAFF to provide science that refutes that unshu fruit is not a pathway for citrus canker.

Persimmons: MAFF agreed to fumigation (methyl bromide) and a visual inspection in order to export next season. MAFF acknowledged that the visual inspection proviso had not been requested previously in writing. The U.S. requested information that might be needed by specialists in reviewing MAFF's request.

Solid Wood Packing Materials: MAFF requested information on USDA's plans for implementation of the IPPC's ISPM 15 on wood packing materials.

MAFF's Plant Quarantine Study: MAFF explained its new Plant Quarantine Study and the process involved. The results were published in May 2004. MAFF further noted that it is working to update its quarantine system and several organizational changes had already taken place.